GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1260
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2004
Crisis of Drinking Water in Rural Areas
Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram;Rawale Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted surveys to find out the number of villages in different areas in the country in which there is crisis of drinking water;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Government to remove the crisis of drinking water;

(c) the immediate steps taken by the Government to deal with the aggravated drinking water crisis during the summer in various parts of country;

(d) whether the Government is aware that drinking water crisis is due to depleting ground water level in certain areas;

(e) if so, the steps being taken to preserve/recharge the ground water; and

(f) the allocation of funds made/proposed to be made to provide drinking water during last three years and till date for the affected States in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA)

(a)to(c)Yes, Sir.During February, 2003, all States/Union Territories have been requested to carry out a fresh survey regarding status of drinking water supply in their rural habitations.So far 22 States/Union Territories have furnished results of habitation survey,which are provisional.The provisional results are to be validated by independent agencies.

Provision of drinking water supply is a State subject and schemes for providing drinking water supply facilities are implemented by the State Governments from their own resources.The Government of India only supplements efforts of the State Governments by providing financial assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The Government of India have been administering the National Calamity Contingency Funds (NCCF) and the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) through the Ministry of Agriculture/Ministry of Home Affairs for providing assistance to States suffering from natural calamities.In so far as the Department of Drinking Water Supply is concerned, with effect from the year 2002-03,5% of the allocated funds in a financial year, under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme(ARWSP)have been earmarked each year to meet contingencies arising out of natural calamities and emergent situations.This provision can be utilized only in areas, which have been declared by the State Government as calamity affected or where emergent situation has arisen and the same is duly notified.The Year-wise and State-wise position of releases made out of this earmarked 5% ARWSP fund is at Annexure-I.

(d)&(e).Yes Sir.Rainwater Harvesting is one of the prioritized areas in the Common Minimum Programme.State Governments have been advised to encourage rainwater harvesting in all rural water supply schemes. 5% of ARWSP funds are earmarked for sustainability of sources, which includes rainwater harvesting and other recharge activities.Funds can also be utilised for revival of traditional sources, which includes desilting etc.In addition, the Department has initiated a proposal to evolve a scheme for rainwater harvesting in individual households,communities and institutions for recharge activities with the help of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development(NABARD).The Government of India has also circulated to State Governments a model bill through which the use of Ground Water is to be regulated by State Governments in their States.

(f) To supplement the efforts of State Governments for providing drinking water facilities to the rural habitations, Government of India renders financial assistance to the States under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply programme (ARWSP). Funds are also released to the States as per the announcement made by the Prime Minister on 15-08-2002 for installation of one lakh hand-pumps, coverage of one lakh primary schools and revival of one lakh traditional sources, under ARWSP. The State wise details of the funds allocated/released during the last three years and during the current year till date under of ARWSP are enclosed as Annexure-II.